

helping found the program in Nashua, George also helped start Manchester Goes Back to School, which serves more than 4,000 Manchester kids and their families each year.

George has generously devoted his time and energy to programs that build homes for wounded warriors, and he is also a strong supporter of athletics in our local communities. A baseball connoisseur, he has served on the board of directors of the Ted Williams Museum and Foundation since 2003. George started and continues to fund several Ted Williams Museum Scholarships, including the Johnny Pesky Scholarship, the Ben Topkin Scholarship, and the Ted Williams Scholarship for deserving students. George serves on the Granite State Baseball Dinner committee, which has raised more than \$1.28 million since 2007 for several charitable organizations—including the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, the Ted Williams Museum, and the Fisher Cats Foundation.

In addition to his dedication to philanthropic efforts, George is a leader in New Hampshire's business community and has helped support the region's economy and provide good-paying jobs. As a dedicated and engaged citizen, George has made tremendous contributions to our State, and I am pleased to recognize his tireless efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of children in New Hampshire.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS AT ARKANSAS HOSPICE AT CHI ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL

● Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I hereby recognize the military veterans currently residing at the Arkansas Hospice at CHI St. Vincent Hospital in Little Rock, AR, as well as the caregivers, staff, and volunteers at CHI St. Vincent who also served their country in uniform, and their families who have made their own sacrifices in support of our troops.

These men and women put their lives on the line in defense of our freedom and our values. They have kept America safe. They have defended our Constitution and our freedom. They have saved lives. They have gone abroad and waged war not to conquer, loot, and pillage, but to liberate and to secure "a just, and a lasting peace" with our fellow man, in the words of the President who commanded over our most awful war.

Our veterans served their country with courage, pride, and distinction. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we can never fully repay. Now, as many of the veterans at CHI St. Vincent are approaching their final moments of life, let us honor them and the cause for which they fought.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE 341ST MISSILE WING

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the men and

women of the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana who proudly defend our Nation by ensuring safe, secure, and effective nuclear forces and combat ready airmen. They are the best of the best.

During the fifth Global Strike Challenge, the 341st Missile Wing "brought home" the coveted Blanchard trophy for Best Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, ICBM, Wing in the Air Force.

Additionally, the members of the wing earned the following awards during the competitions: Best Security Forces M240 Crew; Best Helicopter Search and Rescue Team; Best ICBM Missile Handling Team; Best Missile Communication Maintenance Team; Best Facilities Maintenance Team; Best Missile Munitions Team Trophy, Blackburn Trophy, Best ICBM Maintenance; Klotz Trophy, Best ICBM and Helicopter Operations; Neary Trophy Best Emergency War Order Crew; and Innovation Trophy.

The citizens of Montana and this Nation are proud of the great warriors stationed in Great Falls at the 341st Missile Wing who daily ensure our country and our allies are safe from nuclear attack.●

#### RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the students, faculty, and parents of Washington Elementary School, located in Valley City, ND, on being awarded the 2015 National Blue Ribbon School Award.

Founded in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' academic achievement. A National Blue Ribbon Schools flag overhead has become a mark of excellence in education recognized by everyone from parents to policymakers in thousands of communities. Since the program's founding, the U.S. Department of Education has bestowed this coveted award to just over 7,500 of America's best schools.

Washington Elementary School serves nearly 265 students in grades 4 through 6 and was the only school in North Dakota to receive the honor of exemplary high-performing school in 2015. Receiving recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School signifies the hard work and dedication of the educators, students, and parents involved, and I have no doubt its students are on a path to success. At Washington Elementary, every staff member understands that every student, regardless of background, is important and deserving of the best. To support its students, the school provides access to a reading program that has been vital in ensuring targeted assistance for those students who require additional support. Through this program and others, the school continues to excel and surpass necessary benchmarks.

As school leadership states, "The success of Washington Elementary cannot be attributed to one person, program, or initiative. Rather it is the collective effort of all the outstanding people involved—the students, staff, parents, and community members who continue to strive for excellence each and every day." It is through this dedication that the school provides access to a reading pilot program that enhances reading and language skills, a math and science curriculum supplemented by STEM activities, and history courses that emphasize creativity and flexibility in teaching.

The Valley City Public Schools mission statement reads, "Together we are building a legacy of excellence, one student at a time." This mission embodies all that Washington Elementary is working to accomplish by looking at the needs of each individual student as well as providing a safe and respectful learning environment that breeds success. I wish the very best to the community of Valley City and congratulations to all engaged at Washington Elementary for achieving this high honor. Thank you for your commitment to our children and leaders of tomorrow.●

#### REMEMBERING MELVIN HANCOCK

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize with tremendous pride the life and legacy of a very dear friend and an extraordinary West Virginian, Roy Melvin Hancock. Melvin was an inspiration to so many because of his deep-rooted passion for the city of Beckley. It is a privilege to formally recognize the impact that Melvin had on southern West Virginia through his dedication and determination to building a stronger community.

There was truly no one who loved Beckley more than Melvin. Throughout his life, Melvin had a persistent calling to make Raleigh County a better place. His love of Beckley even earned him the title of "Mr. Beckley."

It was through the YMCA of Southern West Virginia that Melvin launched his lifelong mission of community improvement. After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School and Marshall University, Mel returned to Beckley in 1970 and started his remarkable 25-year career at the YMCA.

Melvin's meaningful contributions and achievements during his career at the YMCA are truly immeasurable. As a leader at the YMCA, Melvin wanted to make sure that Beckley's finest residents were recognized for their inspirational work in the community; therefore, he created the Spirit of Beckley Award. For the past 29 years, this annual award has been given to those who strive to make Beckley a better place. This year, Melvin was posthumously honored with the award. There is truly no one more deserving.

Because of Melvin's leadership and guidance, there are numerous YMCA programs that still exist today. Melvin understood that, in order to create a